



## GUERNICA -PABLO PICASSO

From the students' point of view...

Class B2-B3 Advanced,

High School of Music,Rhodes,Greece

### Why did Picasso paint Guernica?

'Picasso created Guernica so that people will understand and know what happened to this town and to express his anger!'

Athina Zaharaki

'Picasso wanted to express the pain of war..to show people's fear..'

Niki Koti

'Picasso created Guernica because he was very angry about the war in Spain ,that he wanted everybody to take notice of this brutal event.'

Marianna Papanikola

'..Because he wanted to describe the suffering of people at war..'

Demetra Foutouli

'Picasso was outraged about the massacre in Guernica and wanted to send an anti-war message.'

Stamatia Sotiraki

'In my opinion,Picasso created Guernica to show the violence and the terrible scenes of the war to people.'

Dora Hionaki

'..He describes the victims and the horrors Guernica faced at war..'

Orpheas Lotsko

'...To show the suffering people and animals experience in the violence and chaos of a war..

Christofer Neratzakis

'...I think that Picasso created Guernica to show the cruel reality of our planet..

Vaggelis Koumarios



Which is the most intense scene in the painting?

‘The most intense scene is the mother who is holding her baby in her arms and crying.. ‘

Dora Hionaki

‘The poor mother with her dead son in her arms..A dead child ..that means thousands of dead children ,that means millions of dead people..’

Sylvia Bratsai

‘The most intense scene that arouses feelings of sorrow in me is the mother holding her dead child.I’ve heard that it’s the symbol of Virgin Mary holding Jesus..’

Stamatia Sotiraki

‘The most intense scene is the light which describes the truth behind the lies..’

Vaggelis Venios

‘..The soldier’s hand that holds a sword..Above his hand there is a flower that shows that there is still hope..’

Niki Koti





## Picasso -Cubism and Symbolism..

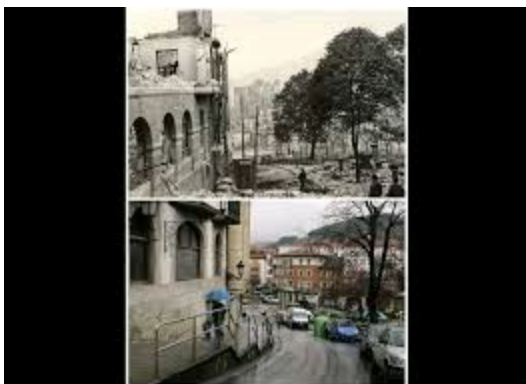
**Cubism is a style of art where the subjects remind us of basic geometric shapes.**

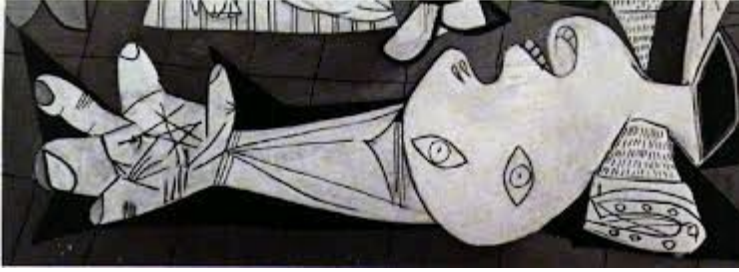
‘Picasso didn’t want to explain his symbolism because he wanted the public to interpret the symbols the way they understood them. For instance, the bull on the left of the painting is the symbol of Spain, brutality and fascism..’

Stamatia Sotiraki

‘All the figures in Guernica seem to be crammed together and they are crying out..’

Marianna Papanikola





‘The horse with the sword in the centre depicts the violence and brutality of war..The woman with her dead child describes the dead citizens in a war..’

Vaggelis Venios

Looking at the painting we can notice people and animals suffering from war.We can see a pierced horse screaming ,a mother crying and holding her dead child ,a hurt soldier holding his broken sword ,a woman trying to get out of a building and a light which looks like an eye..’

Stamatia Sotiraki

‘The whole image takes place in a room with people and animals and there is no background..Picasso wanted to show his disappointment and that he empathised with the situation..’

Danae Manta

‘... their mouths are open as though they are crying out.They can’t get away from the horrors of war ,because they are in room..’

Demetra Foutouli

‘..a small window shows that there is no escape from what happened..’

Athina Zaharaki





Some say that Picasso painted an open door so that he could "escape" from the violence.



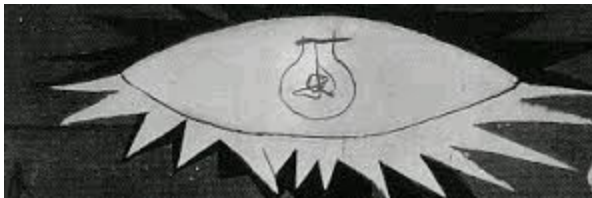
'I can see an injured man holding his broken sword and a flower growing from it and a woman trapped in the flames. All these show to us how people were suffering..'

Argiris Volas



‘Picasso supported that each person would understand the symbolism in a different way. On the top of the painting there’s an eye with a lamp inside. They say that it’s the Eye of God..’

Maria Kiottou



‘Picasso believed that it is not up to the painter to explain his symbolism. He never has to interpret the symbols. Therefore, there are many explanations for each symbol. For example the bull is the symbol of Spain, where the destruction took place, but it is also the symbol of fascism..’

Danae Manta



Composition study by Picasso for his painting "Guernica" (Museum of the Prado, Madrid)  
© Photo by Gator/Cover/Getty Images



*Famous words about painting and art:*

*"Everyone wants to understand painting. Why is there no attempt to understand the song of birds?"*

Pablo Picasso,

1881-1973, Spanish painter

*"I dream my painting and then I paint my dream"*

Vincent Van Gogh,

1853-1890, Dutch painter

*"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see"*

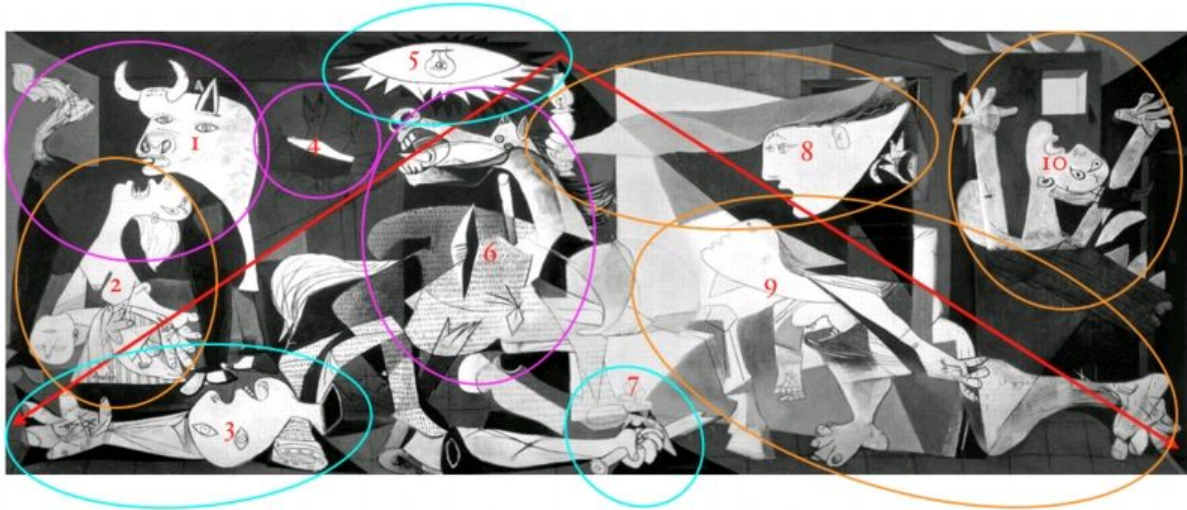
Edgar Degas, 1834-1917

French painter and sculptor





## The Major Components of the Painting



1. the bull
2. the grieving woman with child
3. the fallen statue of the warrior
4. the bird flying from the horse's wound
5. the sun/electric light

6. the wounded horse
7. the sprouting flower
8. the woman with the lamp
9. the fleeing woman
10. the woman falling from the burning building

The two red lines show the central pyramid structure within the painting

